

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3608

To modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2006

Mr. ALLARD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mesa Verde National
5 Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) on June 29, 1906, Mesa Verde National
9 Park was established as the first national park in

1 the United States to preserve the works of human-
2 ity;

3 (2) on September 6, 1978, Mesa Verde Na-
4 tional Park became the first World Heritage Site
5 designated in the United States; and

6 (3) Mesa Verde National Park protects some of
7 the best preserved and notable archeological sites of
8 the ancient Puebloan culture that flourished in the
9 southwestern United States from approximately
10 600–1300, including the elaborate stone villages in
11 the sheltered alcoves of the canyon walls referred to
12 as “cliff dwellings”.

13 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

14 (1) to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde Na-
15 tional Park—

16 (A) to protect the archeological sites lo-
17 cated on property adjacent to the Park bound-
18 ary;

19 (B) to extend and expand the knowledge
20 and understanding of the ancient Puebloan cul-
21 ture, a major influence in the development of
22 the southwestern United States;

23 (C) to protect from potential development
24 the scenic and biological value of the pinyon-ju-
25 niper covered hills that—

1 (i) border the Park; and

2 (ii) are in full view of the Park en-
3 trance road; and

4 (D) to protect the largest recorded colony
5 of the globally imperiled Gray's Townsend
6 Daisy, to ensure continuation of a major wild-
7 life corridor, and to protect important habitat
8 for wildlife; and

9 (2) to provide greater opportunities to visitors,
10 researchers, and surrounding communities to under-
11 stand and appreciate the natural environment of
12 Mesa Verde and the contributions of the ancient
13 Puebloan culture to the region by providing the land
14 required to construct a contemporary museum collec-
15 tions storage facility and visitor orientation center.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
19 titled “2006 Proposed Mesa Verde National Park
20 Boundary Adjustment”.

21 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Mesa
22 Verde National Park in the State of Colorado.

23 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 4. MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK.**

2 (a) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
4 the land or an interest in the land described in sub-
5 section (b) for addition to the Park.

6 (2) MEANS.—An acquisition of land under
7 paragraph (1) may be made by donation, purchase
8 from a willing seller with donated or appropriated
9 funds, or exchange.

10 (b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in
11 subsection (a)(1) is the approximately 360 acres of land
12 adjacent to the Park, as generally depicted on the map.

13 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
14 and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of
15 the National Park Service.

16 (d) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of
17 the Park shall be revised to reflect the acquisition of the
18 land under subsection (a).

19 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
20 ister any land or interest in land acquired under sub-
21 section (a)(1) as part of the Park in accordance with the
22 laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

23 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
25 as are necessary to carry out this Act.